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ORIGIN ORM-01

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 SR-02 NEA-06 EA-06 INR-05 CIAE-00

L-01 IO-03 SP-02 IGA-01 PRS-01 NSC-05 NSCE-00 RSC-01

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DRAFTED BY S/R:ORM:HBSHISHKIN:CML

APPROVED BY S/R - LAWIESNER

S/R:ORM - MR. PAPPAS

NEA/INS - MR. LORTON (DRAFT)

NEA/INS - MR. KUX (DRAFT)

AID/ASIA/SA - MR. THOMAS (DRAFT)

S/R:ORM - MR. DAWSON (INFO)

EA/PRCM - MR. HOLMES (INFO)

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 270009

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, NP, EAID

SUBJECT: RESETTLEMENT ASSISTANCE FOR KHAMPAS

REF: KATHMANDU 3897

1. STATE/AID OFFICIALS MET WITH UNHCR UN HEADQUARTERS
REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE DAYAL AND SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO HCR
RIZVI AT THEIR REQUEST DECEMBER 5. UNHCR OFFICIALS
DESCRIBED KHAMPA PROBLEM IN NEPAL, FOR WHICH PALACE HAD RE-
QUESTED DISCREET UNHCR ASSISTANCE, AND SOUGHT INFORMAL
USG REACTION AND RECEPTIVITY TO HELPING FUND RESETTLEMENT
EFFORT. HCR THOUGHT PALACE ESTIMATES OF 6,000 KHAMPAS AND
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DOLS. 1.8 MILLION IN ASSISTANCE INFLATED AND BELIEVED

MORE LIKELY OVERALL COST WOULD BE DOLS. 500,000 TO DOLS. 750,000 TO ASSIST APPROXIMATELY 2,000 KHAMPAS. PROGRAM WOULD INCLUDE 50-UNIT BLOCK HOUSING AND SELF-SUPPORT, MAINLY THROUGH HANDICRAFTS. RIZVI HOPES GON WILL HAVE REFINED DATA BEFORE HIS NEXT VISIT TO NEPAL, PROBABLY IN JANUARY. CONTRIBUTIONS IN KIND, INCLUDING LOCAL CURRENCY, WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE. GON'S MATCHING CONTRIBUTION INCLUDING LAND WOULD BE "VERY CONSIDERABLE".

2. SUBJECT OF KHAMPA ASSISTANCE DESCRIBED AS OF GREAT POLITICAL SENSITIVITY IN NEPAL, BOTH INTERNALLY AND EXTERNALLY. PRC WOULD NOT TAKE KINDLY TO EXTENSIVE INTERNATIONAL DISCUSSIONS OF ASSISTANCE OR READILY VISIBLE EXTERNAL HELP. PALACE FELT ACUTELY THE NEED TO FULFILL ITS

PROMISE OF RESETTLEMENT ASSISTANCE TO KHAMPAS NOW THAT THEY WERE LAYING DOWN THEIR ARMS, BUT FELT NEED FOR OUTSIDE ASSISTANCE. PALACE WAS ALSO CONCERNED ABOUT EXTENSIVE LOCAL PRESS REPORTING AND PANCHAYAT DISCUSSIONS WHICH THEY HAD WANTED TO AVOID. FURTHER, THEY WERE CONCERNED BY "SIMILAR" PROBLEM IN SOUTHERN NEPAL. (FYI: WE ASSUME THIS IS REFERENCE TO ALLEGED KHAMPA-NCP CONNECTION) AND SAW THE HIMALAYAN KINGDOMS IN SOME DANGER. AS EXAMPLE OF PALACE SENSITIVITY, RIZVI SAID HIS VISIT IN SEPTEMBER WAS CLOSELY HELD AT PALACE REQUEST. FEW GON OFFICIALS WERE AWARE OF IT. UNHCR CONTACT WITH PALACE IS THROUGH NEPALESE AMBASSADOR TO BONN.

3. NEITHER GON NOR UNHCR WISH OR INTEND TO REOPEN UNHCR OFFICE OR TO STATION UNHCR REP IN NEPAL. GON WOULD BE DIRECT RECIPIENT OF FUNDS FROM UNHCR, AND PROGRAM WOULD BE OVERSEEN BY OCCASIONAL VISITS FROM UNHCR REP BANGKOK.

4. BECAUSE SUBJECT WAS POLITICALLY SENSITIVE TO UNHCR AS WELL, HCR MIGHT NOT PROCEED WITH IT UNLESS ENCOURAGED. IN ANY CASE, HCR WOULD SUPPORT ONLY 50-60 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL PROGRAM. HCR WAS THINKING IN TERMS OF ITS TRADITIONAL SUPPORTERS: SCANDINAVIANS, SOME WESTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, BUT PARTICULARLY USG AS WE THOROUGHLY FAMILIAR WITH TIBETAN REFUGEE PROBLEMS. (DAYAL/RIZVI
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AGREED SWISS WERE, TOO.)

5. QUERIED AS TO WHY GON NEEDED OUTSIDE ASSISTANCE WHEN IT HAD AMPLE RESERVES, RIZVI REPLIED IT WAS NOT JUST A MATTER OF MONEY: GON FELT INSECURE, DID NOT WANT TO REMAIN ISOLATED IN DEALING WITH A PROBLEM WHICH WAS NOT CREATED IN ISOLATION, AND SAW SOME COUNTRIES AS HAVING A "MORAL" RESPONSIBILITY TO ASSIST. UNHCR PRESENCE, HOW-

EVER INDIRECT, WOULD PROVIDE, IN ADDITION TO SOME FINANCING, CATALYST AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO ENSURE PROGRAM'S VIABILITY.

6. DEPT EXPLORED WITH UNHCR REPS VARIOUS ALTERNATIVES TO FUNDING THROUGH UNHCR: CALLING FORWARD FROM DONORS ADDITIONAL WFP FOOD COMMODITIES FOR SALE ON OPEN MARKET, USING PROCEEDS FOR BUILDING MATERIALS IN CONNECTION EXISTING OR EXPANDED WFP PROJECTS; INTEGRATING PROJECTS FOR KHAMPAS INTO UNDP DEVELOPMENT PLANS; SWITCHING OF SOME DEVELOPMENT BUDGET RESOURCES BY GON. WHILE UNHCR POSED NO OBJECTION TO THOSE SUGGESTIONS, THEY CONSIDERED WFP AND UNDP TOO CUMBERSOME IN VIEW URGENCY OF PROBLEM -- HELP SHOULD BE PROVIDED WITHIN NEXT TWO TO THREE MONTHS --

AND INVOLVING TOO MANY DONORS TO PERMIT LOW-PROFILE ASSISTANCE. THEY NOTED HOWEVER, UNDP RESREP JOURY HAD INDICATED ABILITY TO HANDLE ADDITIONAL BURDEN IF HE RECEIVED ADDITIONAL FUNDS.

7. ALL AGREED ALTERNATIVES NEEDED MORE STUDY AND CONSULTATION AGAIN IN TWO OR THREE WEEKS TIME; IN ANY CASE PRIOR TO RIZVI'S NEXT VISIT TO NEPAL.

8. ADDRESSEE COMMENTS INVITED. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT, KHAMPAS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 DEC 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE270009
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: ORM:HBSHISHKIN:CML
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740357-0752
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741249/aaaabpsm.tel
Line Count: 140
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN ORM
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: KATHMANDU 3897
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 MAY 2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <25 MAR 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RESETTLEMENT ASSISTANCE FOR KHAMPAS
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, EAID, NP
To: GENEVA KATHMANDU
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005